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Comments on the Proposed Clean Power Plan

Good morning/afternoon, my name is Angela Garrone and I am the Southeast Energy Research Attorney at the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, based in Knoxville, TN. I thank you for the opportunity to speak at this hearing.

Our organization works to promote clean energy solutions for the Southeast, to help protect the health of our families from the dangers of carbon intensive forms of energy production, like coal-fired power plants, and help build a new clean energy economy that will bring much needed jobs to our region. For this reason, I thank EPA for including renewable energy and energy efficiency resources as compliance options in its proposed Clean Power Plan. In order to reduce our nation's carbon emissions, we need a creative approach that takes advantage of the carbon saving energy technologies that are already available – like solar, wind, biomass and energy efficiency resources. Business as usual won't cut it. Just as the Pony Express and landline phone companies had to face facts that their industry was antiquated – so now must the coal industry.

I'd also like to thank EPA for doing something that Congress has failed to do – and that is set meaningful limits on carbon emissions from our nation's power sector. We've heard a lot of push back from coal dependent states and industry that EPA has overstepped its reach in drafting the Clean Power Plan and that EPA should have left that job to Congress and individual states. Without pointing out the obvious - that our stagnant Congress is having a hard time passing any legislation - I'd like to acknowledge that EPA is regulating carbon emissions using the Clean Air Act – which was created by an act of Congress, back when Congress worked together to address important issues like air pollution. The great amount of input that EPA solicited from the private sector before proposing the Clean Power Plan is a great example of regulators working with industry to create a flexible solution to a huge problem like climate change. The rule gives states maximum flexibility in meeting carbon emission limits that were specially crafted to fit each state's unique energy mix.

The Southeast disproportionately contributes to national carbon pollution levels, with almost 270 coal units that collectively emit over 366 million tons of carbon dioxide into the air annually. Unlike other states across the country, such as Vermont and Washington, Southeastern states have not been as willing to reduce their reliance on coal-fired energy and make way for the clean energy resources

like solar and wind. We have seen some of our utilities – like the Tennessee Valley Authority – take the lead in retiring coal plants and building new, cleaner generation resources, but many continue wasting ratepayer money to prop up old, inefficient dirty coal plants.

It is our hope that EPA will use the Clean Power Plan as a tool to push our states to recognize the realities of coal-fired power – it threatens our health, endangers our waterways, increases climate change pollution and is no longer the cheapest source of energy – and to embrace cleaner energy sources that can provide cost-effective, reliable power to our region and bring jobs to communities that desperately need them. We are also hopeful that the Southeast will take advantage of the regional compliance option provided by EPA in the rule, so that we can work together across our states to come up with a plan that helps our region grow as a leader in clean energy production while also decreasing our region's contribution to carbon pollution. As a native Southerner from Memphis, Tennessee, I'd love to see my region become part of the solution to climate change rather than continuing to be part of the problem.

Thank you for your time.